



MATT ROTH FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Baltimore County, Md., schools foresee spending \$200 million on laptops, and industry-funded groups have paid for officials’ travel.

Tech Firms Entice Schools With Steak and Travel

By NATASHA SINGER and DANIELLE IVORY
BALTIMORE COUNTY, Md. — They call it the “Church Lane Hug.” That is how educators at Church Lane Elementary Technology, a public school here, describe the protective two-armed way they teach students to carry their school-issued laptops. Administrators at Baltimore County Public Schools, the 25th-largest public school system in the United States, have embraced the laptops as well, as part of one of the nation’s most ambitious classroom technology makeovers. In 2014, the district committed more than \$200 million for HP laptops,

EDUCATION DISRUPTED
Influencing the Influencers
and it is spending millions of dollars on math, science and language software. Its vendors visit classrooms. Some schoolchildren have been featured in tech-company promotional videos. And Silicon Valley has embraced the school district right back. HP has promoted the district as a model to follow in places as diverse as New York City and Rwanda. Daly Computers, which supplied the HP laptops, donated \$30,000 this year to the district’s education foundation. Baltimore

County schools’ top officials have traveled widely to industry-funded education events, with travel sometimes paid for by industry-sponsored groups. Silicon Valley is going all out to own America’s school computer-and-software market, projected to reach \$21 billion in sales by 2020. An industry has grown up around courting public-school decision makers, and tech companies are using a sophisticated playbook to reach them, The New York Times has found in a review of thousands of pages of Baltimore County school documents and in interviews with dozens of school officials, researchers, teachers, tech executives and parents. Continued on Page A12

Police Building Case to Arrest Movie Mogul

This article is by Al Baker, Jodi Kantor and William Neuman.
The police in New York said on Friday that they were developing a strong criminal case against the producer Harvey Weinstein after an actress’s claim that he raped her seven years ago. Speaking at a news conference at Police Headquarters in Lower Manhattan, officials in the Police Department said they were gathering evidence with an eye toward preparing a warrant to arrest Mr. Weinstein, whose representatives have said he is undergoing therapy outside New York. The claims of the actress, Paz de la Huerta, have been a focus of investigators in the department’s Special Victims Division for several days, since Mr. Weinstein’s long history of allegations of sexual harassment and sexual assault of women was detailed in reports by The New York Times and The New Yorker early last month. Those reports prompted a mountain of tips to the police in New York and London about other Continued on Page A19



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump and the first lady, Melania Trump, in Honolulu on Friday. The Trumps left Friday to begin a five-nation, 12-day trip across Asia. One item on his agenda is North Korea.

Trump Leaves New South Korean Leader in Bind

By CHOE SANG-HUN and MOTOKO RICH
SEOUL, South Korea — He won the presidency promising a shift toward dialogue with North Korea. He argued that sanctions and pressure alone would never persuade the North to scrap its nuclear arsenal. And he pledged to “say no to the Americans if necessary.” But six months after South Korea’s president, Moon Jae-in, returned the nation’s liberals to power, his plans to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula have gone nowhere. President Trump has doubled

Threats by U.S. Hinder Plans to Talk to North
down on sanctions in the standoff with the North, dismissed talks as a waste of time, stepped up military drills and rattled the region with pugnacious threats. And he has barely disguised his disagreement with Mr. Moon, openly accusing South Korea, an ally of 67 years, of “appeasement.” Now, as Mr. Moon prepares to host Mr. Trump’s first visit to South Korea, he finds himself

caught in a bind, compelled by the White House and conservatives at home to support hard-line policies that he once criticized — and that many of his supporters worry are dragging their nation to the brink of war. Mr. Moon’s engagement agenda has been thwarted as much by the North’s defiant weapons tests as Mr. Trump’s combative response. But South Korea is more accustomed to belligerence from Pyongyang than Washington, and there is widespread concern that Mr. Trump may make matters worse when he arrives next week. Mr. Trump leaves Washington Continued on Page A8

Bergdahl Is Spared Prison, to President’s Chagrin

By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.
FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who walked off his Army base in Afghanistan in 2009 and was held captive by the Taliban for five years, received no prison time for desertion or endangering troops, but was ordered by a military judge on Friday to be dishonorably discharged from the Army. The sentencing took only minutes in a case where prosecutors had sought 14 years in a military prison. The military judge, Col. Jeffery R. Nance of the Army, also reduced Sergeant Bergdahl’s rank to private and required him to forfeit \$1,000 a month of his pay for 10 months. President Trump, who has labeled Sergeant Bergdahl a “dirty rotten traitor,” called Friday’s sentence “a complete and total disgrace to our Country and to our Military.” Colonel Nance did not explain his reasoning for the sentence, which will be reviewed by Gen. Robert B. Abrams, who convened



GERRY BROOME/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bowe Bergdahl at the Fort Bragg court facility on Friday while awaiting his sentence. He was ordered dishonorably discharged.

the court-martial and has the power to lessen the punishment. If the final sentence still includes a punitive discharge, it will automatically be reviewed by the United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals. The case has been dogged by politics and controversy from beginning to end. After trading Sergeant Bergdahl for five Taliban detainees in 2014, the Obama administration embraced him, with the national security adviser, Susan E. Rice, even saying he had served with “honor and distinction.” But Continued on Page A17



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Legislatures Duel in Venezuela
President Nicolás Maduro has set up a rival legislature, shackling the National Assembly. PAGE A4

Ousted Catalan Leader Sought
A Spanish judge issued an international arrest warrant for Carles Puigdemont, who has fled to Belgium. PAGE A4

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An Uzbek acquaintance of the man charged in the Manhattan terror attack was interviewed by the F.B.I. PAGE A18

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Tax Lobbyists in a Scramble
A rush to preserve tax breaks is complicated by a Republican drive to have the bill ready by Christmas. PAGE A14

Conviction in Teenager’s Death
Jorge Sanders-Galvez was found guilty of first-degree murder in the killing of Kedarie Johnson, an Iowa teenager described as gender fluid. PAGE A17



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Yayoi Kusama, the artist of “Infinity” rooms, is not just an Instagram darling. A review by Roberta Smith. PAGE C1

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In films George Clooney directs, it seems that Clio is the only way he wants to imagine black people. PAGE C1

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General Electric’s use of a plane just to trail its C.E.O.’s jet has raised concerns about excess at the faltering company, James B. Stewart writes. PAGE B1

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The Milwaukee Bucks’ All-Star is not just changing the way his position is played. He is changing the way all the positions are played. PAGE D1

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